

All District Engineers

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Special Provision for Portable Changeable Message Signs

March 9, 2004

This special provision, formerly Recurring Check Sheet #29, has been revised as a result of the Work Zone Safety Task Force. The basis of payment has been revised and a requirement for remote programming capability has been added.

It should be inserted in contracts utilizing portable changeable message signs.  
Note: Highway Standard 701400 requires one.

The districts should include the BDE Check Sheet marked with the applicable special provisions for the June 11, 2004 and subsequent lettings. The Project Development and Implementation Section will include a copy in the contract.

This special provision will be available on the transfer directory March 9, 2004.

80124m

## **PORTABLE CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS (BDE)**

Effective: November 1, 1993

Revised: April 2, 2004

Description. This work shall consist of furnishing, placing, and maintaining changeable message sign(s) at the locations(s) shown on the plans or as directed by the Engineer.

The sign(s) shall be trailer mounted. The message panel shall be at least 2.1 m (7 ft) above the pavement, present a level appearance, and be capable of displaying up to eight characters in each of three lines at a time. Character height shall be 450 mm (18 in.).

The message panel shall be of either a bulb matrix or disc matrix design controlled by an onboard computer capable of storing a minimum of 99 programmed messages for instant recall. The computer shall be capable of being programmed to accept messages created by the operator via an alpha-numeric keyboard and able to flash any six messages in sequence. The message panel shall also be capable of being controlled by a computer from a remote location via a cellular linkage. The Contractor shall supply the modem, the cellular phone, and the necessary software to run the sign from a remote computer at a location designated by the Engineer. The Contractor shall promptly program and/or reprogram the computer to provide the messages as directed by the Engineer.

The message panel shall be visible from 400 m (1/4 mile) under both day and night conditions. The letters shall be legible from 250 m (750 ft).

The sign shall include automatic dimming for nighttime operation and a power supply capable of providing 24 hours of uninterrupted service.

The Contractor shall provide all preventive maintenance efforts s(he) deems necessary to achieve uninterrupted service. If service is interrupted for any cause and not restored within 24 hours, the Engineer will cause such work to be performed as may be necessary to provide this service. The cost of such work shall be borne by the Contractor or deducted from current or future compensation due the Contractor.

When the sign(s) are displaying messages, they shall be considered a traffic control device. At all times when no message is displayed, they shall be considered equipment.

Basis of Payment. When portable changeable message signs are shown on the Standard, this work will not be paid for separately but shall be considered as included in the cost of the Standard.

For all other portable changeable message signs, this work will be paid for at the contract unit price per calendar month for each sign as CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN.